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ABSTRACT

Cuesta College's Learning Center is designed to totally support the instructional methods of each instructor, to meet the individual learning and study needs of each student, and to provide cultural and educational resource opportunities to the community. The facility is to be a traditional library, whose total media storage and retrieval capacity does not distort this traditional image or function. A Career Planning Center will be located within the building, so that multi-media career information may be provided to all library patrons. This pamphlet presents the Learning Center's philosophy, capabilities, and general facility specifications, including floor plan. (SL)

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Learning Center Unlimited

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Cuesta College San Luis Obispo, California

Architect's rendering, Dec. 1973

PROJECT: CUESTA COLLEGE

San Luis Obispo, California 93406

Completion date: September 1, 1974
Square footage: 48,000
Cost: $2,146,000
Capabilities: Unlimited

PRESIDENT AND SUPERINTENDENT
Merlin Eisenbise

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Lyndon Vivrette

LIBRARIAN:
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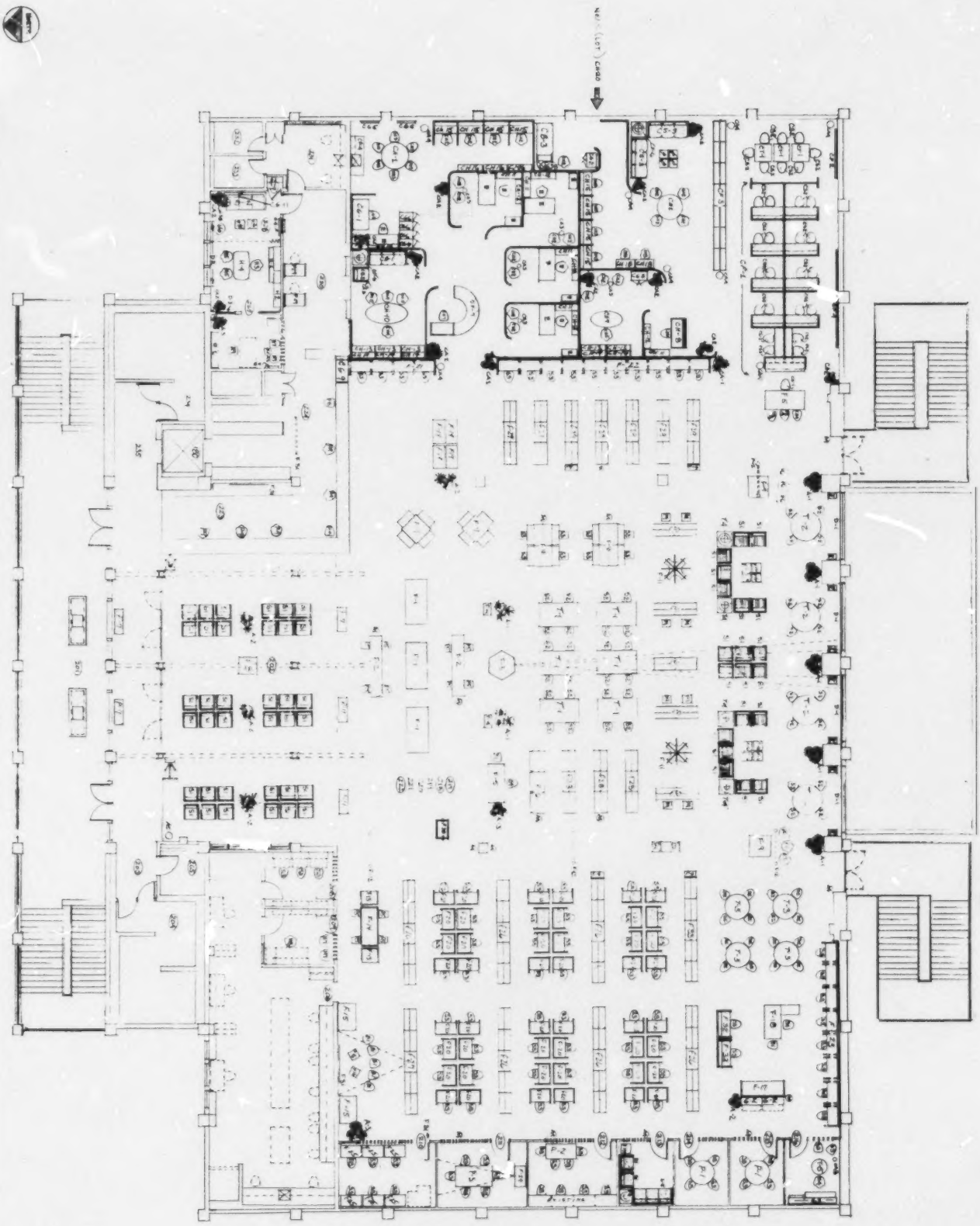

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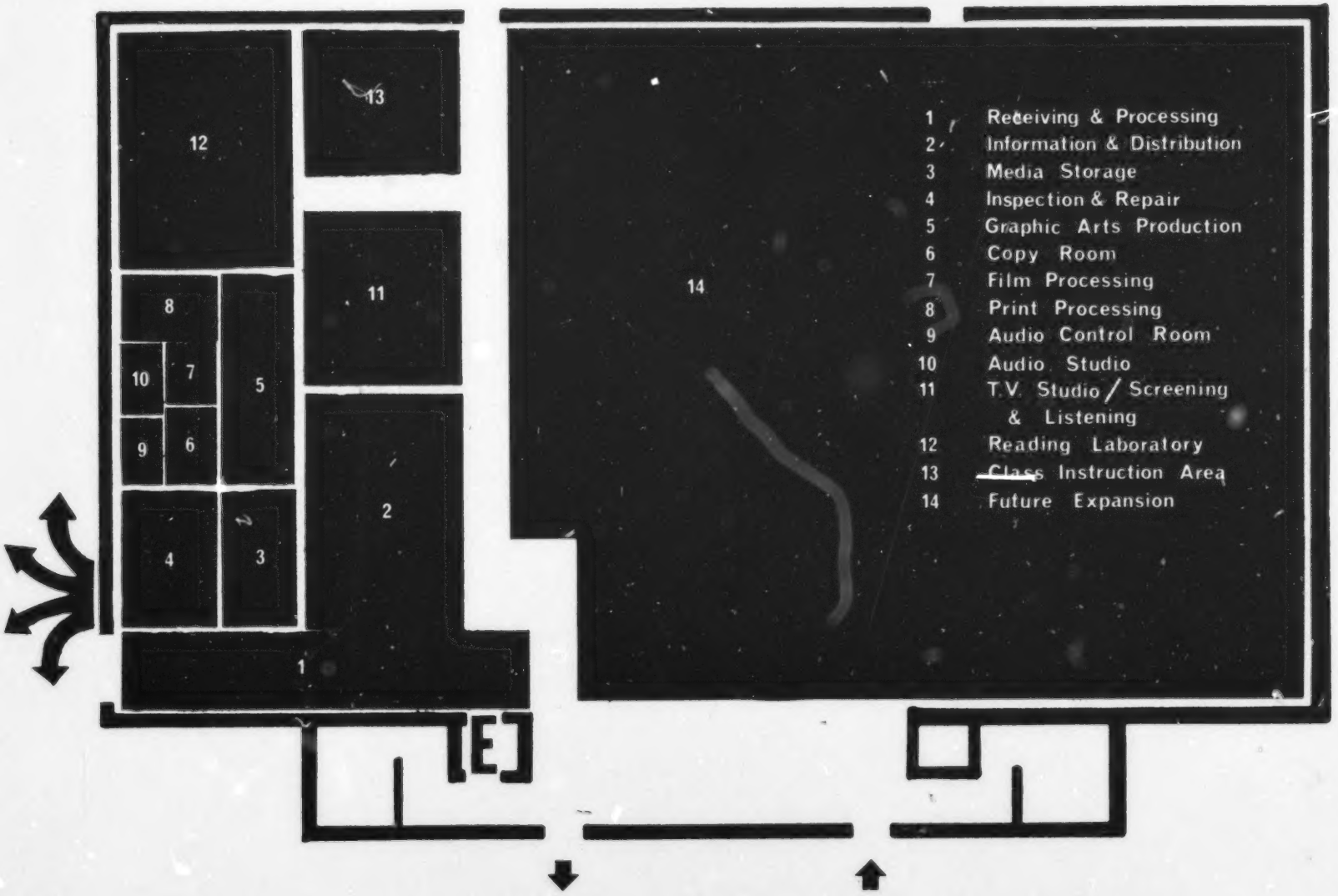
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1 Receiving & Processing
2 Information & Distribution
3 Media Storage
4 Inspection & Repair
5 Graphic Arts Production
6 Copy Room
7 Film Processing
8 Print Processing
9 Audio Control Room
10 Audio Studio
11 T.V. Studio / Screening & Listening
12 Reading Laboratory
13 Class Instruction Area
14 Future Expansion

THE PHILOSOPHY

The Learning Center will totally support each educational instruction method of each instructor, meet the separate and individual learning and study needs of each student, and will provide cultural and educational resource opportunities to the community.

The facility is to be a TRADITIONAL LIBRARY with total media storage and retrieval capability without distorting the image or function of the traditional library.

The emphasis will be placed on meeting the unique needs of the individual user. The facility will adapt to the individual instead of forcing the individual to adapt to the facility. This interior flexibility must be capable of continual change and expansion, accomplished conveniently and routinely.

It is essential that this facility be capable of adapting to any existing or future instructional media or technology with a minimum of effort or cost. The center will continually explore and experiment with new technology and systems of support for instruction and provide the facilities for these evaluations.

The overall environment will aggressively display materials and resources in an attractive and subtle manner that does not disturb the traditional aesthetics.

The facility will provide individual learning equipment and study space, and is to be staffed with librarians who have attained state teaching credentials in order to support the instructors' and the students' goals.

The interior design of the facility will provide the capability for communications from any distribution point to all students in any area, with connections to all furniture and equipment within the facility, to each classroom, to every building on campus, to the outdoor landscaped areas on the campus grounds, and into the community. The interior environment will be capable of supporting all Learning Center activities and will have adjustable controls for lighting, ambient sound, and air movement within the facility as it is required. All air space surfaces above the human level will be capable of multi-screen projection.

The interior components, equipment, furniture, and media stacks will be of a small modular design with the capability for reassignment of unit function and for immediate rearrangement of all floor spaces.

The interior architecture will be so planned as to permit maximum efficiency with minimal staffing and minimal requirement for security controls.

The facility will enhance the following functions:

1. Faculty Services

To offer total support to each individual instructor and his individual and changing methods of instruction by making available the following resources:

A. All types of instructional material (i.e., printed audio, photo, visual, video, computer, radio, programmed, etc.) both immediate and archival, including their distribution, display, storage, and production.

B. Total production facilities to assist and motivate the instructor in origination of instructional materials if, when, and where required.

C. Specialized systems of audiovisual materials and equipment for classrooms, which will be made available, distributed, maintained and repaired, and for which instruction in use will be provided.

D. Center for distribution of class assignment materials, sample tests, etc.

E. Space in the media center for both flexible and specialized arrangements in support of group or individual instructional activities.

F. Space in the "out of doors", equipped and landscaped to support individual or group instruction activities.

G. Continuously available space for counseling, scheduling activities, and career planning with immediate media retrieval of career information and student records.

H. Space for small or large group viewing.

I. Audio-tutorial laboratory support facilities for social science, language arts, and other departments as required.

J. Space for in-service training, assembly and display of new instructional equipment and techniques.

2. Student Services

To offer total support for the separate and individual learning and study needs of each student by:

A. Circulation, display, storage, retrieval, production, or otherwise providing any type of learning materials from immediate to archival.

B. Circulation of varied and specialized portable audiovisual equipment on and off campus.

C. Providing a distribution center for class-assigned materials, reserve books, sample tests, etc.

D. Making available space and equipment for individual or class learning and study inside the facility.

E. Offering space and equipment for individual or class learning and study cutside the facility.

F. Making available a career planning center (C.P.C.) with counseling and scheduling facilities integrated within the total career information resources.

G. Display and dissemination of newest learning aids.

H. Providing a centralized and integrated media cataloging for ease in locating all materials and resources.

I. Grouping all media, including the entire book collection, which will be shelved together wherever possible.

J. Offering an environment for inviting and casual browsing of all media.

K. Making available spaces and milieu to provide rest areas for students.

3. Community Services

To provide cultural and educational resource opportunities for the community.

A. Make all resources of the Learning Center available to the community.

B. Offer multiplicity of display resources geared to the non-student.

C. Provide lecture and meeting space for varied groups within the physical environment of the facility.

D. Provide non-student educational counseling and career information resources.

E. Provide for community orientation to the college campus, its services, and its resources.

F. Provide courses and enrichment programs into the communities' homes via television and radio.

G. Provide "on the job" instructional training at the place of employment via television and video tape.

H. Provide satellite instructional material and program distribution points within the community.

THE CAPABILITIES

CONCEPT:

The Learning Center will include all traditional library and audiovisual services in one facility, with little or no separation by function or activity. Also included will be the Career Development Center, the Study Center and facilities for other activities as the need arises.

Expansion of the Learning Center in the future will be accomplished by moving the Administration and Student Services offices into a new building. These offices now occupy most of the ground floor (approximately 14,000 sq. ft.).

LIBRARY AND AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCES:

Book collection - 30,000 volumes (expanding to 45,000)
Government documents, maps, and other collections
Periodical and newspaper subscriptions - 400
Microfilm and microfiche collections
Audiovisual materials - expanding (audio cassettes, video cassettes, filmstrips, slides, phonorecords)

TECHNICAL SYSTEM:

1. General

Instructional communications center, connected to every building on the campus for video, audio, and computer programs; and to every student position in the Learning Center; and into the community via television and radio systems.

Planned for total flexibility; not for any one system. Designed to accomodate any present or future technological, communication or instructional development.

2. Distribution Capability

Provides two-way communication between the Learning Center and every building on the campus.

Two 4" conduits connect the Learning Center with each subject area center (Science, Social Sciences, Humanities, Applied Arts, Physical Education, etc.).

Six 6" conduits connect the Learning Center with the Television and Radio Studios (in the Humanities Center) and with the Computer Center (in the Applied Arts Center).

3. Master Antennae System

Antennae for AM, FM, Shortwave, TV, and Microwave reception and/or transmission are located on the roof of the Learning Center. Six 2" conduits connect the roof to the Control Center.

PROGRAM SOURCES:

1. Total library and audiovisual resources.

2. Programs originating from the Learning Center.

3. Programs originating from any building on campus.

4. Off-campus programs received by Master Antennae Distribution System (AM, FM, Shortwave, TV, and Microwave).

5. Productions in TV or Radio Studio; Computer Center or Cable TV (cable or microwave).

INSTRUCTIONAL USES (examples):

Video programs with remote controls providing students with individualized self-paced access, review and scanning capability in both fixed and mobile units.

20 or more video programs originating in the Learning Center will be available for use in any classroom. Video programs originating in any classroom may be recorded in the Learning Center.

Computer terminals (teletype or visual display) can be located in any classroom. Initial planning is for five individual terminals and one 30 terminal classroom in each center.

Audio programs will be available on call from the Learning Center by FM distribution.

Instructional support may be provided to campus sub-centers located throughout the county, by cable, TV, computer and materials delivery.

Campus originated programs may be provided via cable access to existing home TV sets for traditional class and individualized instruction.

Campus production of instructional programs may be provided for campus and community use.

Testing services may be provided for community, TV and other instructional programs.

AUDIOVISUAL SUPPORT (LEARNING CENTER):

Infinite access floor provides flexibility and access for A.C. power, audio, video, or computer wires.

Every student position is an audiovisual position, as well as a study position.

MULTI-LEVEL SUPPORT:

Carrels, lounge areas, reading rooms, and most tables are hard wired for A.C. power, and audio/video reception.

Mobile video and rear projection cabinets (motion picture, slide or filmstrip) are used for visual display.

Audio programs (including video sound) are carried by wireless loops, cable, or other method to earphones for individual or group listening.

Compact, portable equipment for audio, sound slide, sound filmstrip or 8mm film use is moved where needed.

Distribution console is connected to all carrel positions.

AV CENTER SUPPORT

1. Production (Audio, Graphic, Photo)
2. Shipping and receiving
3. Order and distribution
4. Repair facilities

FOCUS ON CAREER PLANNING

At Cuesta College the Career Planning Center will be located in the Learning Center itself directly above the Counseling Offices. Its' coordinator will be a Counselor who will assume this task as part of his regular counseling responsibilities. Other members of the Counseling Staff will be assigned regular hours in the Career Planning Center as a part of their counseling load. In addition the C.P.C. will be staffed with a Center Secretary/Library Assistant who will have primary responsibility for the reference and study aspects of the center. Student Aides will assist students in use of the C.P.C. through a peer relationship. Closed circuit T.V. will connect the C.P.C. and the Counselors' offices in the C.P.C. to the Records Office for immediate retrieval of student records when desired.

Plans are to make full use of the multi-media capabilities available in the Learning Center along with the expertise of the Library staff in putting available equipment to optimum use.

In setting up the C.P.C. in this manner the Center will 1) gain adequate space, 2) reach the students where they congregate, 3) create a more informal or approachable atmosphere, 4) make specialized career materials available to all Library patrons, and 5) provide in-depth library resources to all students interested in career information.

The Center will avoid duplication of effort, materials, staff, equipment, and space by making this a cooperative effort combining the total resources available on campus in one area - the Learning Center.

With more students expressing a desire for a two year education that will prepare them for an occupation, there is a need to provide specialized services which are capable of meeting the needs of these individuals. At present, very little occupational information is concentrated in one area where a student can investigate at his leisure.

The function of the Career Planning Center at Cuesta College will be to provide a facility where a student may obtain information regarding careers which will assist him in making a vocational choice. This will include job descriptions, and information on pay, benefits, negative aspects, education needed, etc. This information will be provided in a number of ways through various media including films, tapes, cassettes, and video tapes. Information will be available directly from consultants in the field and various handouts and brochures. Individualized and group counseling and testing will also be utilized to assist individuals in making realistic career choices. Classes in career education will be taught in the Center by the Counseling Staff.

The Career Planning Center will provide a situation in which the student may identify a variety of occupations which are compatible to his life style and in which he may perform adequately and with dignity. In this Career Planning Center the student will have a facility in which he can actively engage in his own career development process. He will be able to increase his knowledge of self and of the world of work, and will be exposed to a series of vocational choices which will carry him along the career development continuum.